

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 04118 250540Z

11  
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01

L-03 IO-13 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 DPW-01 RSR-01 /115 W  
----- 046817

P R 250505Z JUL 73  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1379  
INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4118

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS:PFOR, SEATO, AS, TH, US  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S COMMENTS ON SEATO

REF: BANGKOK 11346

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENTS RE SEATO AND  
THAILAND IN AMBASSADOR GREEN UPI INTERVIEW. FOLLOWING  
TEXT IS VERBATIM FROM TAPE. WE HAVE NOT SEEN TEXT FROM UPI  
N.Y. BUT POINT YOUR PARA. 2. CERTAINLY SEEMS OUT OF CONTEXT.

Q: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MADE SOME STATE-  
MENTS IN REGARD TO SEATO. WOULD YOU REGARD THIS AS AN  
INDICATION THAT THEY WOULD PULL OUT OF SEATO OR IS IT  
JUST RHETORIC?

A: WELL, TO SOME EXTENT IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE NEW  
GOVERNMENT WANTED TO UNDERLINE THAT IT WAS GOING TO RE-  
EXAMINE SOME OF THE OLD POLICIES, TO SEE WHETHER THEY HAD  
A CONTINUING VALIDITY. THAT WHILE THEY WERE IN OPPOSITION,  
THEY DIDN'T. THEY DID NOT DENOUNCE SEATO BUT REGARD  
IT AS MORIBUND. I STILL THINK THEY REGARD SEATO AS BEING  
UNIMPORTANT AND PROBABLY IT HAS A LIMITED TIME AHEAD, BUT  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 04118 250540Z

I DON'T ... THEY ALSO FEEL THAT SEATO COULD DISPENSE WITH

LOTS OF THE FRILLS... JUST THE WAY WE DO ... BUT I DON'T THINK THAT AUSTRALIA IS GOING TO DROP OUT OF SEATO ... I'VE NOT HEARD THEM SAY THEY WERE GOING TO DO THAT - I DON'T THINK THEY ARE. THAT BEING SO, I WOULDN'T THINK THAT THERE WAS VERY MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING SEATO.

Q: WELL, JUST A BIT MORE SPECIFICALLY, AUSTRALIA HAS PULLED OUT OF THESE EXERCISES IN OCTOBER, THESE PLANNED EXERCISES IN OCTOBER, AND IT HAS EVOKED A BAD RESPONSE IN CERTAIN ASIAN CAPITALS. IS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH THIS?

GREEN: WELL, WE'LL JUST DUCK. I WOULDN'T SAY WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT IT BUT WE'RE NOT COMMENTING ON IT. THIS IS AN AUSTRALIAN DECISION THAT WAS REACHED FOR CERTAIN REASONS. I WOULDN'T SAY THAT WE WERE UPSET OVER IT, BUT BEYOND THAT I WOULDN'T LIKE TO COMMENT.

Q: WELL, JUST IN THE SEATO CONTEXT SOME PEOPLE SUGGEST THAT IT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR SEATO. JUST THE PURE FACT THAT AUSTRALIA HAS PULLED OUT OF THESE EXERCISES.

GREEN: I WOULDN'T SAY THAT. I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT VIEW. THE MERE FACT THEY DROPPED OUT OF THIS EXERCISE MIGHT HAVE PARTICULAR REASONS RELATING TO DATE, TIME AND SO FORTH, BUT WHETHER YOU HAVE AN EXERCISE OR NOT HAS SOME IMPORTANCE BUT IS NOWHERE NEAR AS IMPORTANT AS WHETHER OR NOT YOU CONTINUE TO HAVE SEATO ITSELF. SEATO IS OUR PLEDGE TO THAILAND AND ONCE COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRALIA PULL OUT OF SEATO, IT'S GOING TO MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT, NOT ONLY FOR SEATO BUT FOR OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS.

Q: MR. WHITLAM HAS GOT MUCH QUIETER ABOUT THAILAND THAN HE WAS WHEN HE FIRST CAME IN BUT THERE DOES SEEM TO BE ONE PARTICULAR AREA WHERE THERE IS A COMPLETE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN FORCES IN THAILAND.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CANBER 04118 250540Z

DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BE RAISED BETWEEN HE AND MR. NIXON?

GREEN: WELL, I HAVE HAD LONG TALKS WITH MR. WHITLAM WHEN HE WAS THE OPPOSITION LEADER ABOUT THAILAND AND THE FUTURE OF S.E. ASIA, AND QUITE FRANKLY I FOUND CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIS VIEW AND MY OWN VIEW ON THE GENERAL FUTURE OF S.E. ASIA AND WHAT OUR

RESPECTIVE POLICIES WOULD BE WITH REGARD TO THE AREA.  
AND, YOU WOULD HAVE TO SAY THE SPECIFIC CHAPTER AND  
VERSE OF SOMETHING MR. WHITLAM SAID BEFORE I WOULD BE  
ABLE TO COMMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT WE AGREED WITH THAT  
PARTICULAR VIEWPOINT. SOMETIMES A LEADER WILL SAY  
SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT, DEPENDING ON THE CONTEXT,  
THE TIMING AND ALL THE REST OF IT.

Q: YOU DID SAY SPECIFICALLY THAT THERE WAS A DANGER OF  
ANOTHER VIETNAM IN THAILAND THROUGH THE STATIONING OF  
LARGE CONTINGENTS OF AMERICAN TROOPS.

GREEN: WELL, LET ME SAY THAT I DON'T THINK THERE IS A  
DANGER OF ANOTHER VIETNAM, FRANKLY. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN  
THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE HAVE BEEN HIGHLY EDUCATED ...  
WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE DRAWN INTO ANOTHER AFFAIR LIKE  
THIS WITHOUT VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE  
CONSEQUENCES. IN OTHER WORDS THE CONCEPT THAT  
SOMEHOW WE ARE GOING TO BLUNDER INTO A SITUATION,  
OR THAT WE WILL PROCEED IN A WAY WITHOUT GIVING CARE-  
FUL THOUGHT TO THE CONSEQUENCES, I THINK IS WRONG.  
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO THAT.  
HARROP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973CANBER04118  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730712/aaaaaitw.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 BANGKOK 11346  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR GREEN'S COMMENTS ON SEATO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, TH, US, SEATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005